

Promoting Pollution Prevention and Environmental Management Systems

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EPA Science Forum

Healthy Communities and Ecosystems



In cooperation with the Regions, the Office of Research and Development's (ORD) National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL) delivered a workshop series in 2002-2003, promoting pollution prevention tools and approaches and environmental management system planning for organizations.

Environmental Issue

Pollution Prevention / Source Reduction is the most desirable choice in the waste management hierarchy and has been a priority of the US EPA for over ten years. New methodologies have been developed in the last decade adding to the knowledge of practical application. An Organizational Guide to Pollution Prevention was developed and published to stimulate the practice of pollution prevention as a continual improvement concept using the environmental management systems model.



Partnerships

EPA Regions

Industry

P2Rx

Academia



The Regional P2 and Waste Management Coordinators sponsored and promoted the workshop, spending time and money to assist ORD in planning, coordinating and conducting the workshops. P2Rx, a national network of internet P2 providers, state and local governments, technical assistance providers, and trade associations all joined in promoting the workshops and distributing the information to many businesses and the regulated world at large. Due to the advertising network, approximately fifty percent of the workshop participants represented industry, bringing a perspective to the table not always enjoyed by the regulating community.

Approach

After publication, the regional workshop series was developed and delivered to provide 'one-on-one' practical applications to promote the tools and approaches described in the guide. Each three-day workshop consisted of sixty or more attendees participating in exercises and interactive lecture to learn and practice tools and approaches. The facilitators, Cam Metcalf, Executive Director of the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center, and Bob Pojasek, Pojasek and Associates were selected for their international expertise in pollution prevention tools and environmental management.

Impacts

"Instructors had a lot of practical experience. Great handout materials!"

"Overall and general understanding of EMS and P2 as well as the tools used to implement an EMS through P2."

"Breadth of experience of instructors, organization, written materials, quality of presentations. Bob and Cam really kept me awake!! Great war stories!!"

The exposure to fundamental concepts, with the opportunity to practice the methods, promoted the acceptance and future use of the tools and approaches. The workshop series introduced the participants to the basic ideas and tools that can make the job of prevention more practical and successful, moving toward a sustainable future for the environment and for industry. The participants were highly enthusiastic and returned accolades on the agenda and the motivated facilitators. The workshop was videotaped and an interactive multimedia DVD is being developed for 'training at the desk', to be released in late 2004.

Using Science to Make a Difference